

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 EB-08 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06 OES-07 SP-02
SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 NRC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
/103 W

-----114444 301952Z /72

R 301521Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7783

INFO ERDA WASHDC

ERDA GERMANTOWN MD

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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USEEC

PASS COMMERCE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, FR

SUBJECT: EDF-SPONSORED STUDY ATTACKS NUCLEAR MORATORIUM

REF: (A) PARIS 22205; (B) PARIS 24846

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. ELECTRICITE DE FRANCE (EDF), FRENCH GOVERNMENT-
OPERATED ELECTRICITY COMPANY, COMMISSIONED PIERRE
MAILLET, OF LILLE UNIVERSITY, TO STUDY EFFECTS WHICH A
SLOWDOWN OF THE FRENCH NUCLEAR PROGRAM IN THE PERIOD
1978-82 AND ITS REPLACEMENT BY CLASSIC THERMAL PLANTS
WOULD HAVE. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT A MORATORIUM ON
NUCLEAR ACTIVITY HAS BEEN PROPOSED MOST NOTABLY AS A
CONDITION POSED BY BRICE LALONDE FOR PARTICIPATING IN
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THE GOF COMMITTEE ON THE TOPIC (REF B). STUDY CON-
CLUDED THAT SUCH A MORATORIUM WOULD COST 39 BILLION
FRANCS (ONE DOL - 4.9 FRANCS). IT OPERATES ON THE
HYPOTHESIS THAT ALL OPERATION OF NUCLEAR PLANTS CEASE
FOR FIVE-YEAR PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 1978. HARDEST
HIT WOULD BE FRAMATOME, FRANCE'S NUCLEAR PLANT, AND
SECONDARILY ALSTHOM AND CEM WHICH FURNISH TURBO-

ALTERNATORS. THE NET RESULT OF THIS DIMINUTION OF ACTIVITY WOULD BE 85,000 EXTRA UNEMPLOYED IN THE PERIOD.

2. ACCORDING TO THE MAILLET STUDY, THE FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES WOULD CONSIST FIRST IN A REDUCTION OF INVESTMENT, SINCE CONVENTIONAL THERMAL PLANTS COST LESS THAN NUCLEAR ONES. MAILLET CONCLUDES THAT THERE WOULD BE AN INITIAL REDUCTION IN TOTAL INVESTMENT OF 7.5 BILLION FRANCS IN THE FIVE-YEAR PERIOD UNDER CONSIDERATION, ABOUT TWO PERCENT OF TOTAL INVESTMENT.

3. PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANT, ACCORDING TO THE STUDY, WOULD BE THE EFFECTS OF THE MORATORIUM ON FRANCE'S FOREIGN TRADE. ITS PETROLEUM IMPORTS WOULD RISE BY 35 MILLION TONS BY 1990, WHICH WOULD INCREASE FRANCE'S DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN ENERGY FROM 64 TO 76 PERCENT. THIS WOULD INCREASE IMPORTS BY 15 BILLION FRANCS, IF THE PRICE OF OIL CONTINUES AT THE PRESENT DOLS 12 PER BARREL. BUT THIS INCREASED DEPENDENCE COULD WELL RAISE ITS PRICE.

4. EFFECTIVENESS OF STUDY IS REDUCED BY HYPOTHESES ON GROWTH RATE AND POWER COST. GROWTH RATE POSITED IN PLAN, 5.5PERCENT, IS USED IN STUDY, EVEN THOUGH PROBLEMS IT CONSIDERS WOULD BE CONSIDERABLY LESS IF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RATE WERE, SAY, 3.5 PERCENT. AND THE AVERAGE ELECTRICITY COST PER KILOWATT HOUR OF 7.75 TO 7.80 CENTIMES CONTRASTS WITH THE FIGURE 9.7 TO 10 WHICH HAS LONG BEEN USED BY GOF AGENCIES. IT AGREES, HOWEVER, WITH 11.5 TO 13.5 FOR THERMAL PLANTS. END UNCLASSIFIED. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. COMMENT: BY ADOPTING THE ASSUMPTIONS MOST UNFAVORABLE TO A NUCLEAR MORATORIUM, THE MAILLET STUDY'S IMPACT IS GREATLY ATTENUATED ACCORDING TO SOME PRESS CRITICISMS. END LOU. HARTMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MORATORIUM, NUCLEAR ENERGY, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PARIS25117
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770313-0935
Format: TEL
From: PARIS USEEC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977088/aaaaagmi.tel
Line Count: 104
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c664635f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 PARIS 22205, 77 PARIS 24846
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1657178
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EDF-SPONSORED STUDY ATTACKS NUCLEAR MORATORIUM
TAGS: ENRG, PARM, FR, EDF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c664635f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009